



Smarter Balanced Educator Opportunities- 2013

Smarter Balanced Educator Opportunities

The following are descriptions of four activities VT Educators in Mathematics and English Language Arts are encouraged to apply for:

Smarter Balanced Pilot Test scoring, educators will participate on range finding committees to review student responses, recommend anchor papers and validate rubrics from the Pilot Test administration.

Notification of participants	5/30/2013		
Dates and Location	June 24-27	Mathematics ELA/Literacy	Durham, NC Sacramento, CA

Dear Educator,

On behalf of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (Smarter Balanced), CTB/McGraw-Hill, with support from your state's Teacher Involvement Coordinator, Mary Ann Minardo, seeks educators who meet the qualifications outlined below to serve as panelists for Range Finding activities beginning in June 2013. They:

- Are currently certified or licensed to teach ELA/literacy and/or mathematics in a K-12 public school.
- Are currently teaching in a public school or are currently employed by a public school or district or state education entity, including higher education, located within a Smarter Balanced Governing State.
- Have taught ELA/literacy and/or mathematics in grades 3 through 8 and/or high school within the past three years or have worked in a classroom content support role such as a literacy or mathematics coach, district or state content specialist, etc.
- Have previously reviewed part or all of the Common Core State Standards for the content area in which they are interested in writing items and/or performance tasks.
- Have previous Range Finding experience (preferred but not required).

Smarter Balanced is developing a common assessment system for mathematics and English Language Arts (ELA)/literacy that is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The development involves educators, researchers, policymakers, and community groups in a transparent consensus-driven process to help all students strive for success in a global economy.

This spring, Smarter Balanced administered a Pilot Test of the assessment system to a sample of schools across the country. Through this Pilot Test, Smarter Balanced will gather information about the performance of assessment items and the test delivery system under real world conditions.

CTB/McGraw-Hill is recruiting educators to participate in Range Finding Committees to review student responses, recommend anchor papers, and validate rubrics from the Pilot Test. The committees will meet on-site for each Range Finding opportunity.

Once participants are selected and confirmed in late May, CTB/McGraw-Hill will provide expected attendees with information related to travel to the intended scoring site based on the grade-level and content area committee assigned. CTB/McGraw-Hill will provide lodging, travel costs, and applicable reimbursements to each participant. For educators, these reimbursements may include parking, meals outside of meeting, and substitute reimbursement.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Range Finding?

A: Range Finding participants work in groups assigned to grades and content areas. The process begins with an orientation. Panels will review the first assigned item-specific prompt or stem, rubric, and any associated stimuli as a group. The panels then review packets of responses in order to recommend “anchor papers” for each score point. Additionally, rubrics are evaluated against the anchor responses to ensure standards alignment, breadth, and grade-level appropriateness.

Q: What are the dates and length of review sessions?

A: Range Finding will occur separately for ELA/literacy and mathematics. Each session lasts four days.

- ELA/literacy—Sacramento, CA: 06/24–06/27/2013
- Mathematics—Durham, NC: 06/24–06/27/2013

Q: How are educators selected for Range Finding participation?

A: CTB/McGraw-Hill will confirm educators selected by the state to serve on the Range Finding Committees as participants or alternates from across all Smarter Balanced Governing States. The distribution of educators will represent a balance of geographic regions, grade levels, years of experience, and other demographic data.

Q: How and when will I know if I will be selected for Range Finding participation?

A: Recruitment for Range Finding will occur across all Smarter Balanced Governing States. Selected participants and alternates will receive notification regarding their status of participation. The cycle for notification is outlined below:

- Notification email for educator participants and alternates: 06/05–06/12/2013
- Travel arrangements must be completed by: 06/14/2013

Q: Where does Range Finding occur?

A: Range Finding for the pilot test occurs in-person. The sessions for ELA/literacy will be held in Sacramento, CA. The sessions for mathematics will be held in Durham, NC.

Q: Will my expenses be paid?

A: CTB will pay airfare, hotel, and meal expenses for selected participants. Honorarium or substitute reimbursement may be available up to \$150/day.

Q: How much time can we expect to spend on this project in total?

A: Each Range Finding opportunity will occur over a total of four workdays. The workday is approximately eight hours, with morning, lunch, and afternoon breaks.

Q: What items will we be Range Finding?

A: The panels will perform Range Finding for a subset of performance tasks in mathematics and in ELA/literacy for grades 3–8 and high school.

Q: What qualifications do I need to apply to participate in Range Finding?

A: Participants must meet the following qualifications:

- Currently certified or licensed to teach ELA/literacy and/or mathematics in a K-12 public school.
- Currently teaching in a public school or are currently employed by a public school or district or state education entity, including higher education, located within a Smarter Balanced Governing State.
- Taught ELA/literacy and/or mathematics in grades 3–8 and/or high school within the past three years or have worked in a classroom content support role such as a literacy or mathematics coach, district or state content specialist, etc.
- Previously reviewed part or all of the Common Core State Standards for the content area in which they are interested in writing items and/or performance tasks.
- Previous Range Finding experience (preferred but not required).

Q: Are recently retired teachers eligible to participate?

A: The Smarter Balanced Participant Qualification Guidelines define the following criteria:

- Currently certified or licensed to teach ELA/literacy and/or mathematics in a K-12 public school.
- Currently teaching in a public school or currently employed by a public school or district or state education entity, including higher education, located within a Smarter Balanced Governing State.

This requirement limits the participation of education employees to those who currently hold a position within an educational institution. Participation in this Range Finding opportunity is also meant to serve as a professional development activity for current school and district employees.

Please see the following application for the Pilot Range Finding.

Upon completion, please email the application to MaryAnn.Minardo@state.vt.us

Pilot Test Range Finding Committee Educator Application

Educator Application	
Range Finding Opportunity Requested (Date and Place):	
Educator First Name:	
Educator Last Name:	
Primary Email Address:	
Secondary Email Address:	
Contact Phone Number:	
Name of District or Education Entity for 2012-2013:	
Name of School for 2012-2013:	
District Type (X): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural	
State:	
Region in State (X): <input type="checkbox"/> North <input type="checkbox"/> Central <input type="checkbox"/> South	
Content Areas Taught or Supported within the Last 3 Years:	
Grade Level(s) Taught or Supported within the Last 3 Years:	
Educator Ethnicity (X): <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Not Hispanic or Latino	
Educator Race (X): (Mark all that apply) <input type="checkbox"/> Native American or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White	
Student Populations Taught or Supported within the Last 3 Years (X): <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino <input type="checkbox"/> Native American or Alaska Native <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander <input type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> English Language Learners <input type="checkbox"/> Students with Disabilities	
Previous Range Finding Experience:	

Shortly, on this web page, will be posted additional opportunities for Math and ELA Educators to apply for. This committee work will be done entirely on line:

Pilot Test Data Review July 2013

Educators will also be needed to participate in the review of item and performance tasks from the spring 2013 Pilot Test. This review will take place once the Pilot Scoring and research activities have been completed.

Field Test Item Authoring Summer 2013

Educators will develop up to 10,000 items for the 2014 Field Test in ELA/Literacy and Mathematics from grades 3-8 and high school. These items will be a combination of selected response items, constructed response items and performance task, including items with technology enhancements. Qualified item authors will have online training sessions will be provided. Teachers will continue their work online in small groups to develop items during June, July and August.

Field Test Item, Task and Stimulus Review Summer-November 2013

All materials developed for the field test will be reviewed by committees of teachers and other education experts for content, bias and sensitivity and accessibility. These reviews will be online and will be accessible to participants across the Smarter Balanced states. Reviewers will receive online training.

- ELA Stimulus Content, Bias/ Sensitivity and Accessibility Review (June-July 2013)
- ELA and Mathematics Item and Task Content, Bias/Sensitivity and Accessibility Review (August-November)